



TITLE:

Some mathematical considerations about a small intestine morphology in the human body (Theory of Biomathematics and its Applications XIII : Modeling and Analysis for Discrete and Continuous Models)

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CITATION:

Kanazawa, Hirotaka. Some mathematical considerations about a small intestine morphology in the human body (Theory of Biomathematics and its Applications XIII : Modeling and Analysis for Discrete and Continuous Models). 数理解析研究所講究録 2017, 2043: 160-163

ISSUE DATE:

2017-09

URL:

<http://hdl.handle.net/2433/236973>

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Some mathematical considerations about a small intestine morphology in the human body

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Abstract

A small intestine has a non-branching tube structure and is packed in an abdominal cavity which is a finite space. Therefore, a small intestine has a finite number of bending. To investigate this number of tube-bending, I introduce some differential geometrical concepts into the arguments and conclude that a small intestine has a given range of the number of a tube-bending.

1 Introduction

The role of a tube structure for a living organism is very important in the view of evolution. There is almost no organism which has not a tube structure. Animals have a gastrointestinal tract, a capillary, a bronchus, and plants have a conducting vessel, for example. So there are many mathematical researches about a tube structure. Some studies are concerned with fractal dimension, some are with fluid dynamics, and some are with vertex model. In this paper, I discuss some mathematical properties of a non-branching tube in the view of differential geometrical point: especially, the number of a tube bending of a small intestine. Of course, there are many differential geometrical studies. These studies use theory of elasticity [1], which is superior to investigate the dynamics of a tube structure. However, these method is too complicated to investigate static properties. Therefore, in this paper, I introduce another differential geometrical concepts to simplify the arguments of a tube structure about static properties like following.

$$\begin{aligned} dE_{bind} &= \alpha dS \\ dE_{bend} &= \beta K^2 dS \end{aligned}$$

These energy are used to investigate a carbon nanotube or graphene [3]. In a vertex model which is very common as the model for mathematical biology, a cell has, ideally, 6-vertices ; in another words, a shape of a cell inclines to be hexagonal. This means a cell is equal to be a hexagon which vertex is a particle. In this sense, we can identify a tube which is constituted with cells, with a carbon nano tube.

2 The first and second fundamental form of a cylinder and a tours.

Let the first fundamental form be g and the second be h .

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} g_{11} & g_{12} \\ g_{21} & g_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h = \begin{pmatrix} h_{11} & h_{12} \\ h_{21} & h_{22} \end{pmatrix}$$

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Of course, we can represent these g and h with a notation of partial differentiation.

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_u \cdot \mathbf{p}_u & \mathbf{p}_u \cdot \mathbf{p}_v \\ \mathbf{p}_v \cdot \mathbf{p}_u & \mathbf{p}_v \cdot \mathbf{p}_v \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{p}_{uu} \cdot \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{p}_{uv} \cdot \mathbf{e} \\ \mathbf{p}_{vu} \cdot \mathbf{e} & \mathbf{p}_{vv} \cdot \mathbf{e} \end{pmatrix}$$

Here, the denote $\mathbf{p}(u, v)$ is a position vector which represents a point on a surface and \mathbf{e} is a norm vector of that point.

A vector to a cylinder C is of the form

$$\mathbf{p}(u, v) = \begin{pmatrix} r \cos u \\ r \sin u \\ v \end{pmatrix}$$

Therefore, The coefficients of the first and second fundamental form of C are

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} r^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h = \begin{pmatrix} -r^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

We rotate a circle of radius r , lying in the x_1x_3 -plane with the centre at $(x_1, x_3) = (R, 0)$, about the x_3 -axis. We denote by u the directed angle from positive direction of the x_1 -axis to a point P on the circle. We then represent the tours T in the form

$$\mathbf{p}(u, v) = \begin{pmatrix} (R + r \cos u) \cos v \\ (R + r \cos u) \sin v \\ r \sin u \end{pmatrix}$$

The coefficients of the first and second fundamental form are

$$g = \begin{pmatrix} r^2 & 0 \\ 0 & (R + r \cos u)^2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$h = \begin{pmatrix} r & 0 \\ 0 & (R + r \cos u) \cos u \end{pmatrix}$$

By using these notations, the area of the surface is represented as

$$\text{Area}(S) = \int_D \sqrt{g_{11}g_{22} - g_{12}g_{21}} dS$$

And the Gaussian curvature which is the product of the two principal curvature is

$$K = \frac{h_{11}h_{22} - h_{12}h_{21}}{g_{11}g_{22} - g_{12}g_{21}}$$

Therefore, the area and the Gaussian curvature of C, T are

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Area}(C) &= 2\pi r h \\ \text{Area}(T) &= 2\pi^2 r^2 \\ K_C &= 0 \\ K_T &= \frac{\cos u}{r(R + r \cos u)} \end{aligned}$$

For simplicity, we regard a tube of a small intestine as composed with only a C and T . That is, when a tube bends, the part of bending is regarded as a half tours. Therefore, a tube of small intestine has a unit which has a one cylinder part and a half tours part. Furthermore, R of the tours should be equal to r to fulfill the space.

Let the space in which a small intestine be packed is the domain $[0, L] \times [0, H] \times [0, r] \in \mathbf{R}^3$. The argument we've have, E_{bind} and E_{bend} of the unit of a tube are represented like following:

$$\begin{aligned} E_{bind} &= \alpha(\text{Area}(C) + \frac{1}{2}\text{Area}(T)) \\ &= 2\pi\alpha r(\pi r + H) \\ E_{bend} &= \frac{\beta}{r^4}A \end{aligned}$$

Here, the notaiton A is

$$\begin{aligned} \int_D K_T^2 dS &= \int_{u=0}^{u=2\pi} \int_{v=0}^{v=\pi} \left\{ \frac{\cos u}{r^2(1+\cos u)} \right\}^2 dudv \\ &= \frac{1}{r^4} \iint \frac{\cos^2 u}{(1+\cos u)^2} dudv \\ &\equiv \frac{1}{r^4}A \\ &\quad (A = \text{const.}) \end{aligned}$$

A tube has the n units in the space. The unit has two r wide, so a number of the unit is $\frac{L}{2r}$. Thus, the total energy $E(r)$ of a tube is

$$\begin{aligned} E(r) &= (E_{bind} + E_{bend}) \times n \\ &= L\{\pi\alpha H + \pi(\pi-2)\alpha r + \frac{\beta}{2r^5}A\} \end{aligned}$$

We require that the total energy $E(r)$ takes a minimum in the body.

$$\frac{dE(r)}{dr} = 0$$

Left-side hand is $\pi(\pi-2)\alpha - \frac{5\beta}{2r^6}A$. So, when r is equal to $\left\{ \frac{5\beta}{2\pi(\pi-2)\alpha}A \right\}^{\frac{1}{5}} (\equiv r_o)$, $E(r)$ takes a minimum.

A number of tube bending is equal to a number of the unit. Therefore, using a Gaussian symbol, a number of a tube bending n is concluded following;

$$n = \left[\frac{L}{2r_o} \right]$$

3 Discussions

Using the energies which I introduced, we can investigate static properties of a form very easily. But we should validate this energies theoretically and practically. There are many mathematical researches and principles about a form. For example, principle of least action or foam theory. In this paper, I introduce two energy E_{bind} and E_{bend} . The former is, essentially, equivalence to the action function [2]. However, the latter is not so clear whether the energy has some relation with existing energies or not. So I will seek for this relation after this and extend the energies for not only a curvature but also a torsion in \mathbf{R}^3 space. At the same time, to decide constant of proportionality which appears in this paper, I will investigate the number of bending of a small intestine in the human body.

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